

**Vermont Advisory Board for Children and Youth  
With Special Mental Health Needs**

**February 10, 2006  
Weeks, Room 100, Waterbury Complex  
12:30-3:00**

*Present:* Guy Wood, Ted Tighe, Kreig Pinkham  
*Absent:* Carla Brisson, Sherry Nelson, Jo-Anne Unruh, Julie Welkowitz  
*Guests:* Alice Maynard

**I. Housekeeping**

- Minutes: tabled due to lack of quorum
- Updates
  - *Youth Collaboration Conference, May 19.*  
Kreig warned everyone to register as soon as the materials are released next month if they want to attend this conference; it will fill up very quickly.
  - *Board appointments*  
Alice reported on conversations with the Governor's office about the need for geographic diversity in the 2006 nominees; we also have a stumbling block with the 2005 proposed nomination of a DCF District Director as a service provider because s/he is a state employee. An explanation of the value of this knowledge of the DCF system that is mandated to collaborate under this law and the weight of the other eight members who are not state employees has been forwarded to the Governor's office. The outcome is not yet known.
  - *2006 Parent Satisfaction Survey*  
Alice reported that CAFU has finalized the 2006 version of the satisfaction survey. It will be sent to a 75% statewide sample of parents whose children received a minimum of 3 services paid for by Medicaid within a given 6 month period. Three weeks later, a follow-up survey will be sent to those who did not respond to the first letter. Ted urged CAFU to encourage DA staff to talk about the survey with clients and Local Program Standing Committees as a special project which they could promote. Data analysis will occur in late spring/early summer and the report should be available in early fall.
  - *AHS Secretary and Deputy Secretary appointments*  
Alice confirmed that the new AHS Secretary Cindy LaWare has appointed a new Deputy Secretary. He is Steve Gold, former Deputy Secretary of Administration under Charlie Smith. Steve has a long history of work in AHS including Commissioner of Corrections.
  - *Legislative developments*
    - Kreig reported that the \$500,000 mentoring proposal is facing challenges in the House Health and Human Resources Committee. Should the Field Service Directors have sole discretion on how to spend it? Should mentoring include or exclude adolescents?
    - Kreig reported that the legislative committee is generally pleased with the proposed AHS transportation/shackling policy. Nevertheless, they are going forward with a bill on the issue because the biennium is ending and the problem has been such a long-standing one. The committee defeated the proposal that the court could override the policy.
    - Alice reported that VDH was one of three state departments participating in a pilot In-Depth Budget Process. It attempts to tie funding to program outcomes

thru measurable objectives. The presentation was quite different from past requirements. It was also challenging for legislators to follow where specific pots of funding were being spent because this format requires a more integrated presentation.

## II. **Priorities for 2006 System of Care**

- A. Update on distribution of priority recommendations and meetings:
1. the letter to the three Commissioners and AHS Secretary went out at the end of January.
  2. meetings:
    - a. Jo-Anne spoke met for 1 ½ hours with Commissioners Cate and Dale and discussed the infrastructure priority.
    - b. Guy will e-mail Steve Dale to set up a meeting.
    - c. Jeff and Julie were not present to update on status of meeting with Commissioner Jarris and Deputy Commissioner Blake.
    - d. Kreig and Guy have not yet set up meeting with AHS Secretary LaWare and Deputy Secretary Gold
- B. Discuss pros and cons of expanding scope of Advisory Board under the Interagency Agreement between AHS and DOE
- Members present began exploring issues:
- Considering the expansion of disabilities from one to fourteen, should additional members with suitable expertise be added to the Board? Or should the core number and distribution of categories remain the same with the addition of standing *ad hoc* members for specific disabilities? Need group stability, expertise, and the ability to recruit a workable number of members.
  - Would an expanded Board limit itself to recommendations for the one disability or consider all fourteen? The latter seems too much and not recommending an improvement for a specific disability would feel awkward.
  - Is it possible to group some of the disabilities?
  - Are there existing effective advocacy groups for some of the fourteen disabilities? If so, what would be the relationship to the Board?

## III. **Public Comment**

None.

## IV. **Future Agenda Items**

- Members asked that Sherry Schoenberg and Jo-Anne Unruh present their thoughts/draft about the update to the *User's Guide* that they are currently working on at the **March 10 meeting**
- Alice will distribute the LIT answers to survey question 4b from the October 2005 meeting
- Alice will see if there is an updated membership list for LITs, including Parent Representatives
- Clare McFadden and Claire will present the new AHS/DOE white paper on autism at the **April 7 meeting**. Ask them if they can include their UVM partner, Patti Prelock.